



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CELEBRATE HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

El Paso, Texas, June 8, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, State Director for Texas USDA Rural Development announces the celebration of Homeownership Month in June throughout rural Texas. USDA Rural Development joins federal, state, and local housing officials in hosting events nationwide to promote homeownership.

“USDA has a long history of assisting rural citizens to achieve and maintain the dream of homeownership. Over the past 10 years, USDA Rural Development has assisted more than 15,000 households in purchasing a home in Texas. It is with great pride that we join President George W. Bush in celebrating June 2004, as Homeownership Month,” said Daniel.

USDA Rural Development is marking the occasion locally by highlighting homes built in conjunction with Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario (OPSE) through the Self-Help Housing program. Officials with USDA Rural Development along with local dignitaries will hold a groundbreaking for the El Bosque Subdivision in San Elizario, Texas. The subdivision will be the site for additional homes built through the Self-Help Housing program.

The effort is part of USDA’s national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing. USDA Rural Development makes grants to eligible nonprofit or public organizations to assist low income families who wish to work together to build their own homes. Grant money is used to pay for technical assistance the families may need in constructing the home with their own resources. The grant is made through USDA Rural Development’s Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance program.

USDA Rural Development is the lead economic development agency for USDA and is committed to the future of rural communities. For additional program information, you may also log onto the state's Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation’s rural residents.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.